

Usborne Nature Cards



Birds



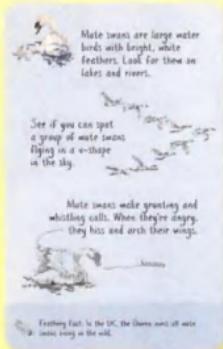
Usborne Nature Cards

Birds



These colourful, fact-filled cards show 30 common birds to spot and identify.

Charming pictures on the front of the cards make it easy to recognize each bird.



On the back, there are bird facts and detailed sketches.

£5.99 (inc. VAT)

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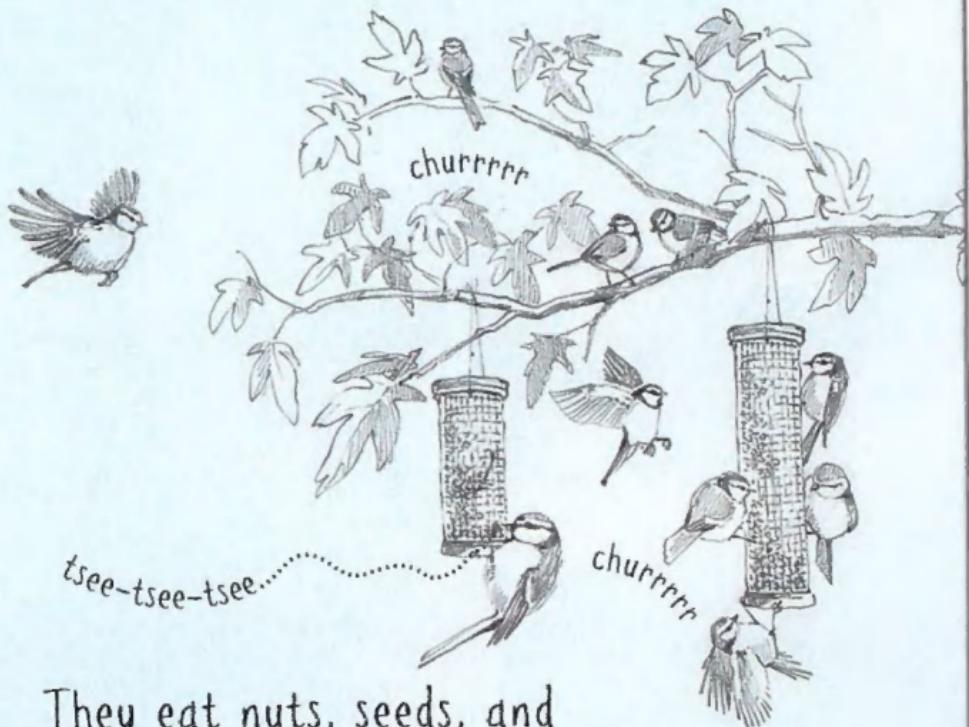
Blue tit





Blue tits often live in noisy flocks. Listen for their 'tsee-tsee-tsee' and 'churrrrrr' calls.

Look for them on bird feeders, or flitting around hedgerows and trees.

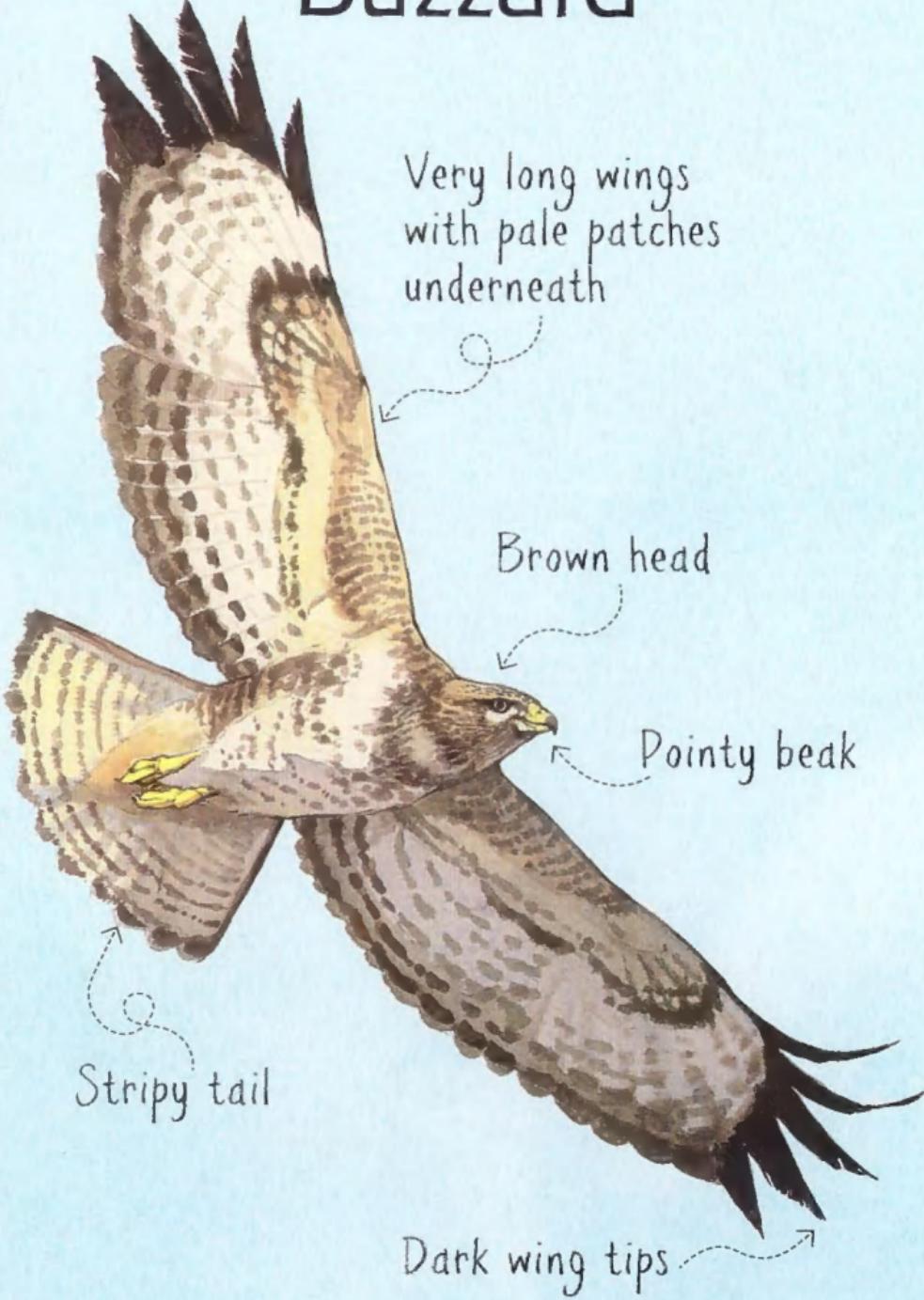


They eat nuts, seeds, and small insects.



Feathery fact: Blue tits can feed their chicks up to 1000 caterpillars a day.

Buzzard





Buzzards are big birds. You can see them soaring over farmland, hills, moors and woods.

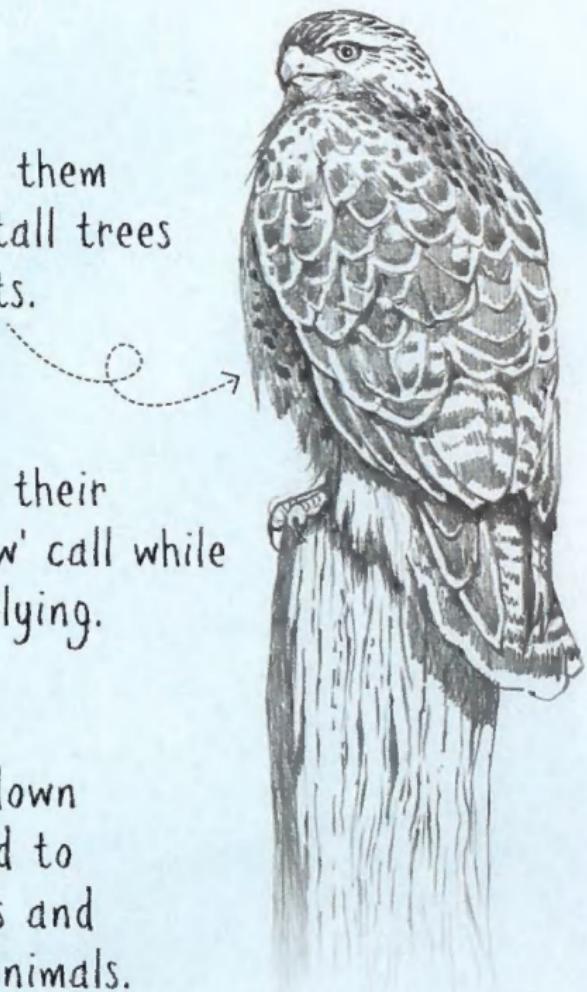
Look out for them perching on tall trees or fence posts.

Listen for their crying 'mew' call while they are flying.

They swoop down to the ground to catch rabbits and other small animals.



Feathery fact: To impress a female, the male buzzard flies high up in the air, then spirals down to the ground.



Canada goose





Canada geese are big water birds.

You're likely to see them in flocks on lakes and rivers, or grazing in grassy fields.

honk, honk.....



Listen for their noisy, honking calls, especially while they're flying.



Baby geese are called goslings. They have fluffy, yellow and brown feathers.



Feathery fact: Canada geese haven't always lived in the UK. They were brought here as a present for the king more than 300 years ago.

Chaffinch





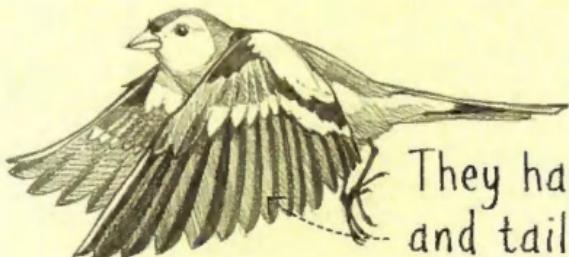
You can see chaffinches in gardens, parks, woods and farmland.

chirichiri-cheeip

Listen for their
loud 'pink-pink' and
'chirichiri-cheeip' calls.



Male chaffinches are easy to spot.
Look out for their colourful blue
and pink feathers.

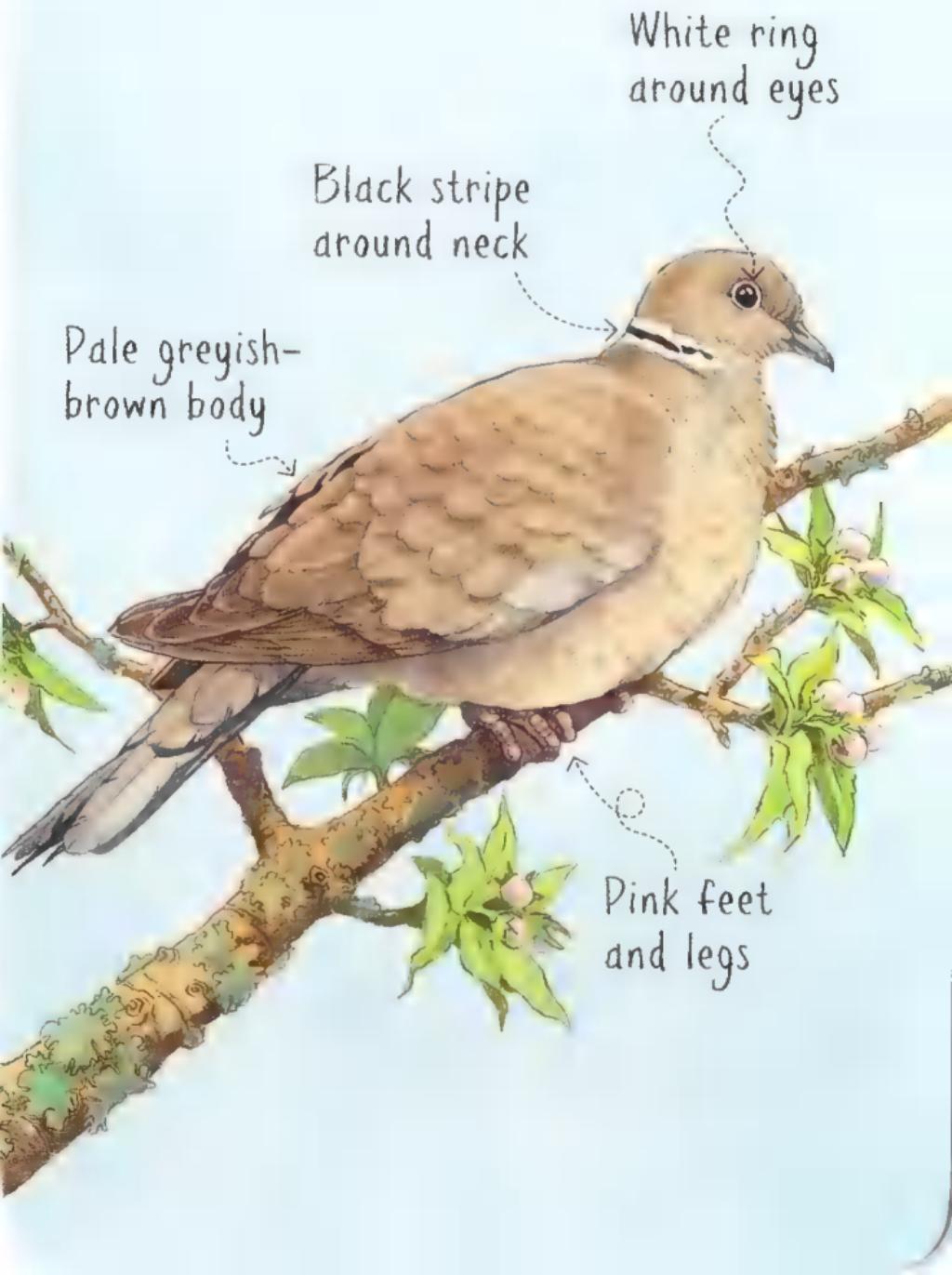


They have stripy wings
and tails, too.



Feathery fact: Male and female chaffinches split up during the winter and live in separate flocks.

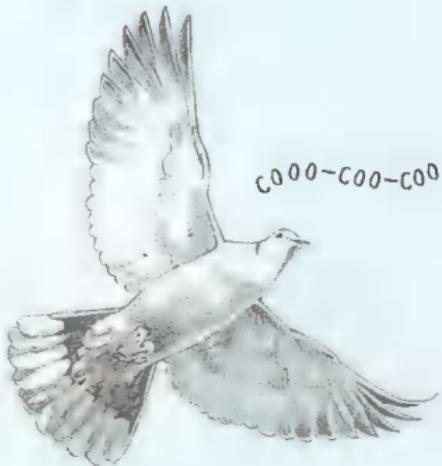
Collared dove





Look for collared doves walking along the ground in parks and gardens.

You might also see them flapping and gliding in the sky.



Listen for their loud 'cooo-coo-coo' call. They sing it again and again.

Collared doves make messy, loose nests from piled-up twigs.



Feathery fact: Collared doves get their name from the black stripe on their neck that looks like a collar.

Carrion crow





Look out for crows in parks,
fields, woods and moors.
They are usually on their
own or in pairs.

Try to spot them soaring
and gliding in the sky.
The ends of their wings
look like fingers.



Crows eat lots of things. You
might see them picking at scraps
by the roadside.



.....kraa-kraa

They have a deep, harsh
'kraa-kraa' call.



Feathery fact: Crows are clever birds. They have been seen opening sea shells by dropping them from the sky onto rocks below.

Coot





Coots are water birds.
You can see them on
lakes and rivers.

Listen for their loud
'kwok' call, followed by
squeaky 'pik' sounds.

.....kwok.....

.....pik



Coots have big, wide toes.
This helps them to swim.



Before they take
off, coots run across
the water, splashing their
feet and flapping their wings.



Feathery fact: Male coots often fight each other
using their big feet.

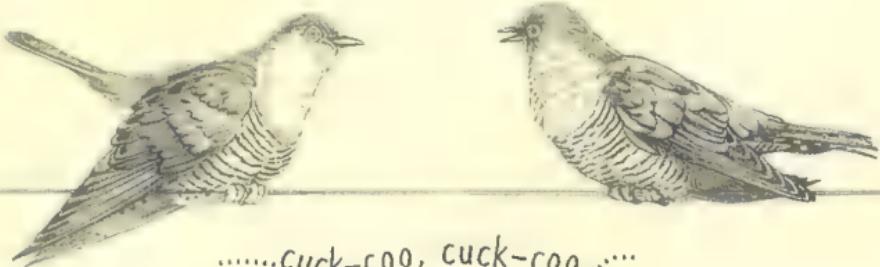
Cuckoo





You're more likely to hear a cuckoo than see it. Listen for their familiar 'cuck-coo' call in summer.

They live in woods, moors and boggy places.



.....cuck-coo, cuck-coo.....

Look for cuckoos on telephone wires or flying from tree to tree.

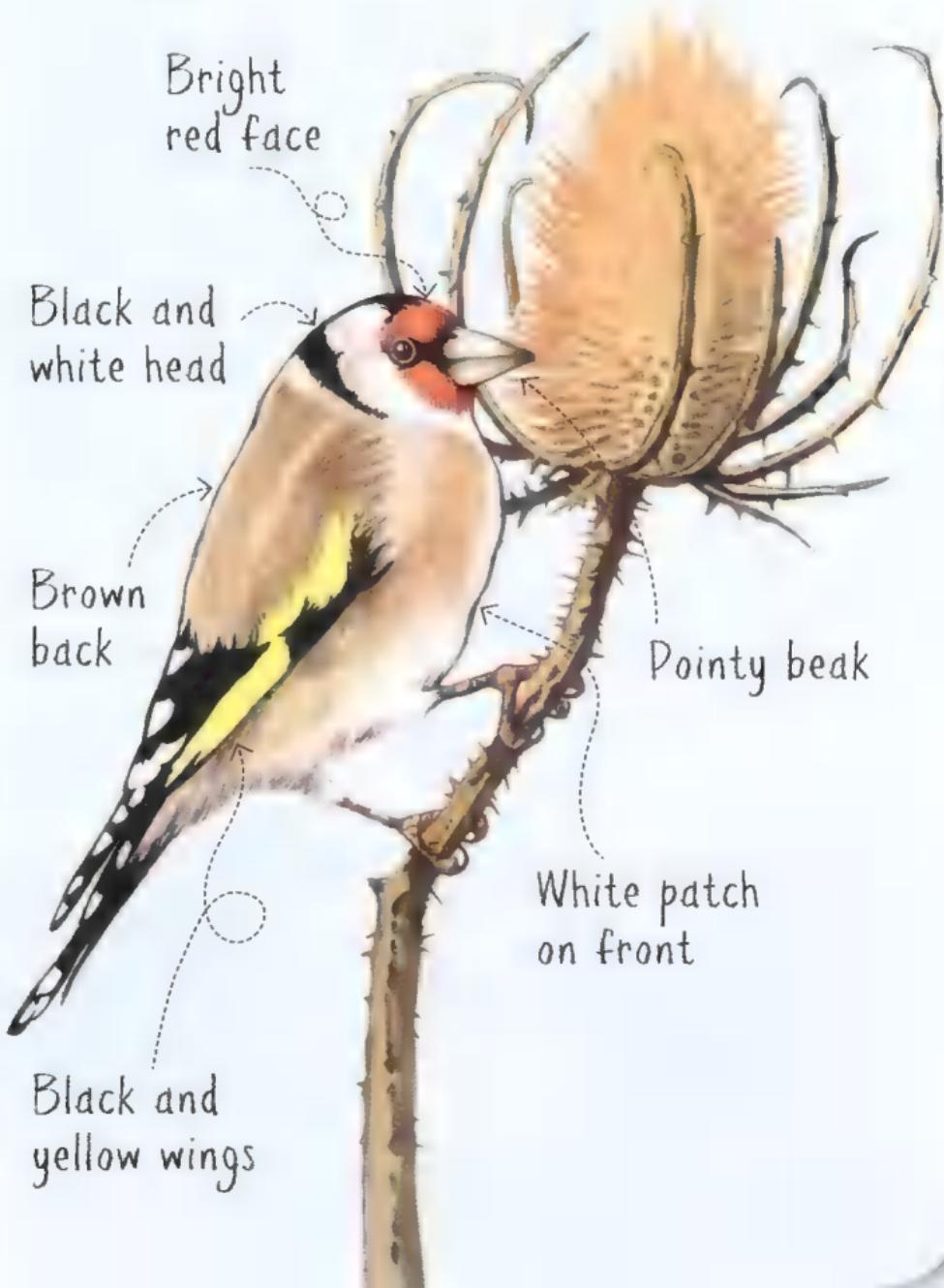


They drop to the ground to feed on insects.



Feathery fact: Cuckoos lay their eggs in other birds' nests and leave other birds to bring up their young.

Goldfinch





Goldfinches are colourful birds. Look out for their bright red and gold feathers.

They have a bouncy, skipping flight.



Listen for their twittering and trilling song.

Goldfinches feed in large flocks. You might see them on garden bird feeders.



Feathery fact: People used to keep goldfinches as pets because they liked their song.

Great tit

Thick black
stripe on front

Shiny, black head





Great tits live in flocks in gardens, parks and woods.

They have a 'tea-cher, tea-cher' song.



Look out for great tits budging smaller birds out of the way on bird feeders.

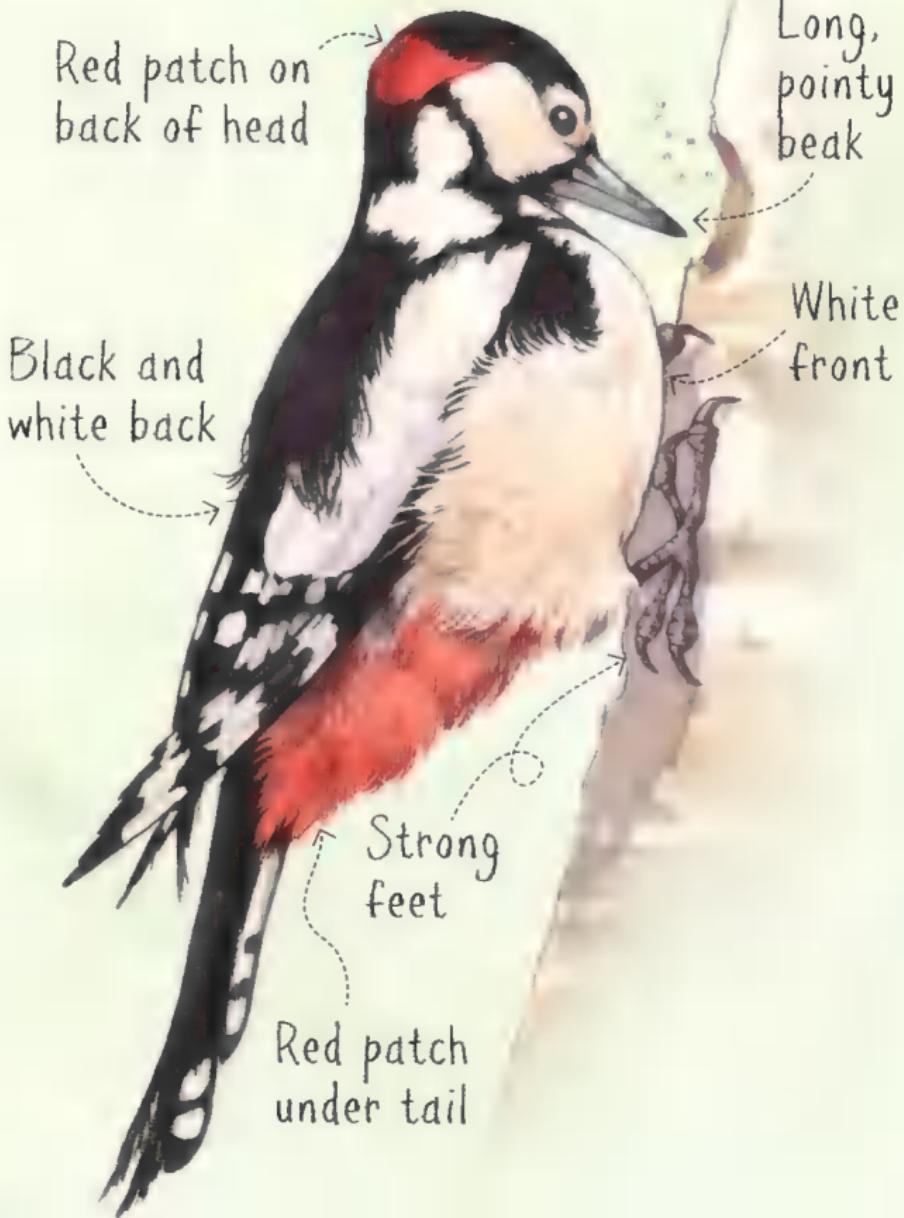


They eat insects, seeds, berries and nuts, often feeding on the ground.



Feathery fact: A flock of great tits can sing up to 40 different songs.

Great spotted woodpecker





Look for great
spotted woodpeckers
clinging to tree trunks
or branches.



They make
nests by digging
holes in trees
with their beaks.



They catch
insects with their
long, sticky tongues.

You might see them flying,
too. They have a flapping,
bouncing flight.



Feathery fact: Great spotted woodpeckers have very
strong feet and sharp claws for climbing up trees.

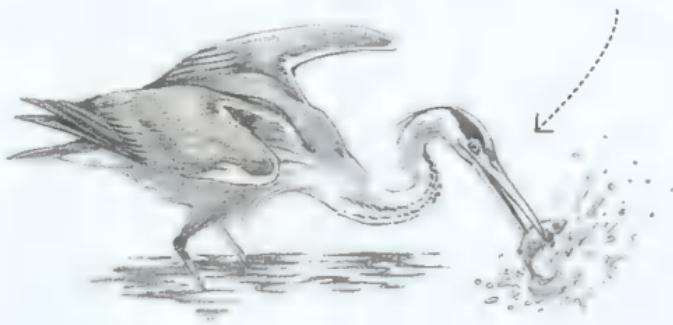
Grey heron





You can see herons standing
in boggy fields or wading
through water.

They catch fish by stabbing
them with their sharp beaks.



You might see a heron flying.
Look out for its long wings
and dangling legs.

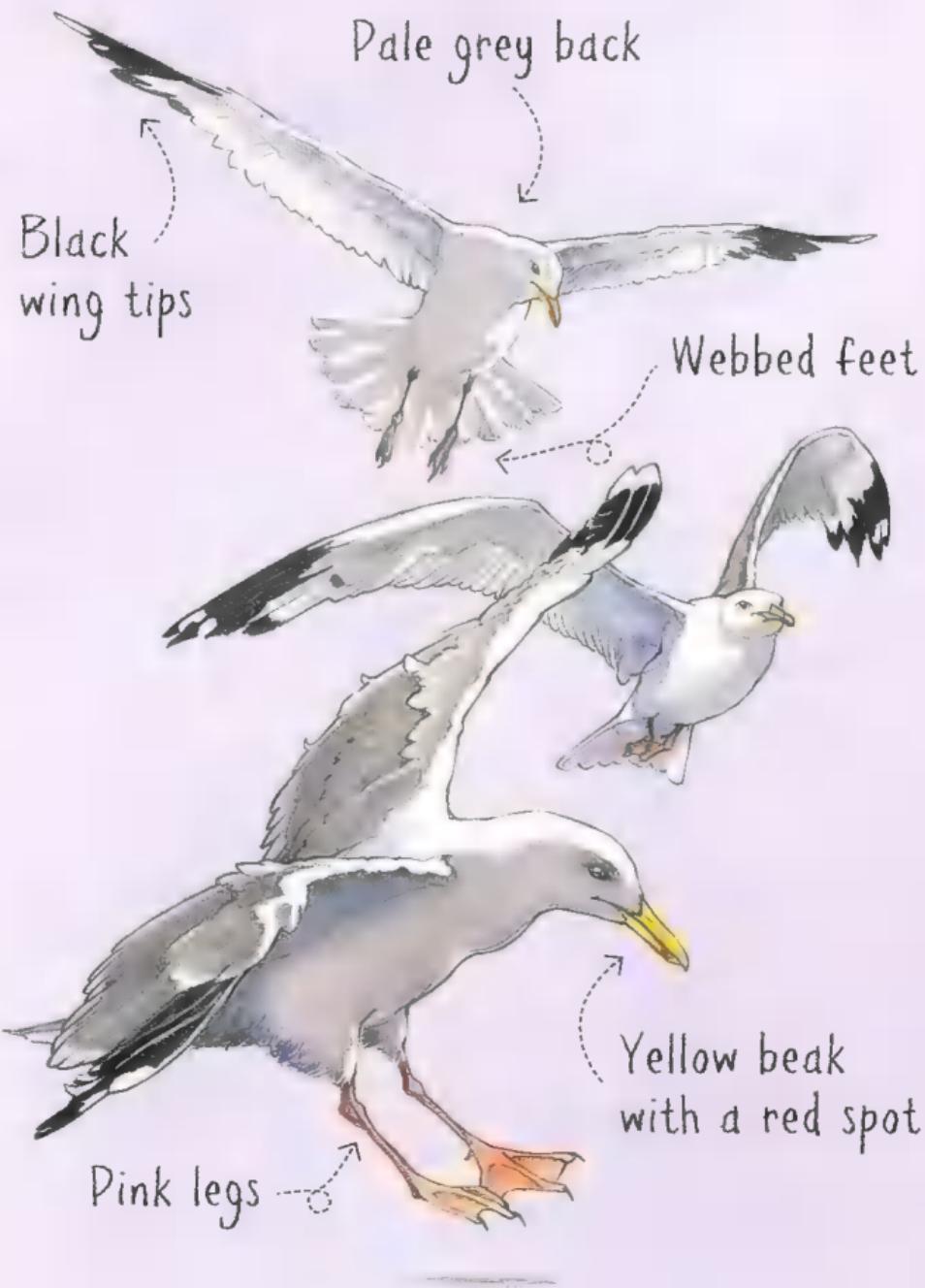


They have a loud, harsh 'fra-ank' call.



Feathery fact: Herons can stand completely still in
shallow water for hours, waiting for their prey.

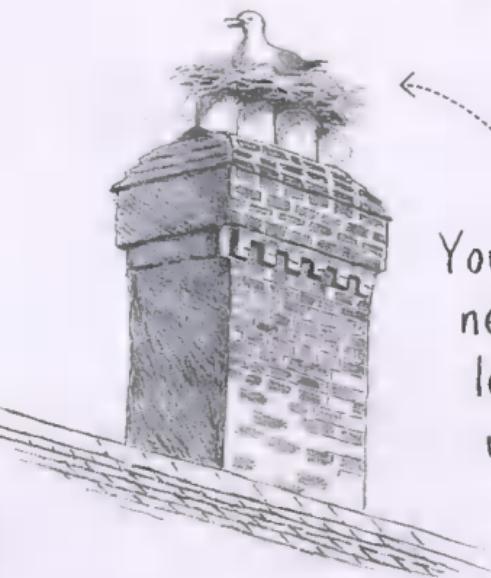
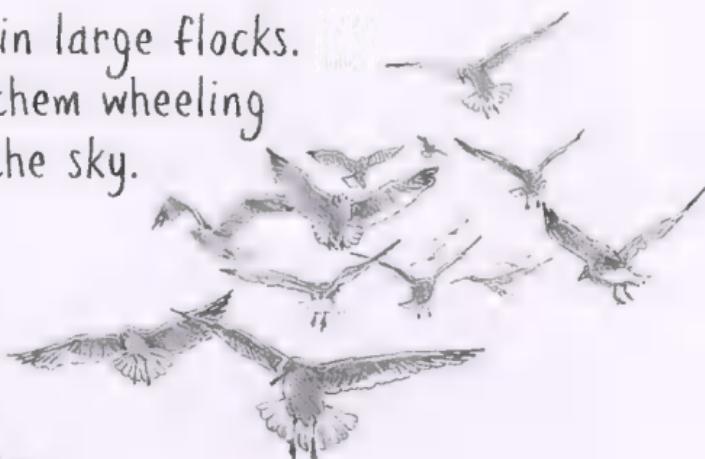
Herring gull





Herring gulls are noisy birds.
Listen for them squawking
around the seaside, and over
lakes and farmland.

They live in large flocks.
Look for them wheeling
about in the sky.



You can see gulls
nesting on cliff
ledges, or anywhere
up high, like rooftops
and chimney pots.



Feathery fact: Herring gulls will eat almost anything –
fish, other birds, even food from rubbish dumps.

Jay





Jays often hide in garden trees and woods, so you're more likely to hear than see them.

Listen for their loud 'skairk' call.

skairk.....

Look out for the bright white feathers on their rumps.



You might spot jays on the ground in autumn, burying nuts to eat in the winter.



They can carry lots of acorns in a pouch under their throat.



Feathery fact: Jays let ants crawl over their feathers. This is probably because the ants help to clean them.

Long-tailed tit





Long-tailed tits are tiny birds with long tails. Try to spot them flitting around trees and hedgerows.

Listen for
their chattering
'tsee, tsee, tsee' call.

tsee, tsee, tsee.....



They're rarely on their own.
Long-tailed tits stick together
in flocks.



See if you can spot one
hanging upside-down.



Feathery fact: Long-tailed tits build stretchy nests out of moss and animal hair, bound together with cobwebs.

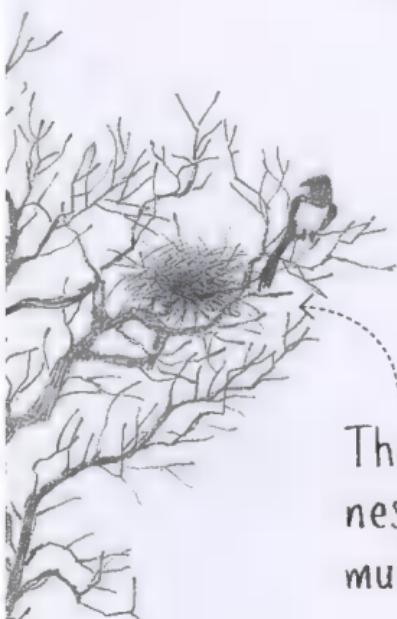
Magpie





Look for magpies by the roadside,
and in parks, gardens, farmland
and woods.

Magpies are easy to spot while they are flying. They have a long, trailing tail.



Magpies have a noisy, 'chacker-chacker' call.

They build big, messy nests from twigs and mud high up in trees.



Feathery fact: Magpies often hide food. They can remember their hiding places for months afterwards.

Mallard

Female

Blue patch
on wing

Speckly
brown body

Brown
beak



Male

Glossy
dark
green head

Bright purplish-blue
patch on wing

Curly tail
feathers





Mallards are a type of duck.
You can find them on rivers,
ponds and lakes.

Look for them dipping their
heads into the water to
reach for food.



This is called dabbling.



Ducklings can go into the
water as soon as they hatch.

Only the females can say 'quack'.
The males make a quiet 'raab' sound.



Feathery fact: In summer, male mallards lose their
colourful feathers and look like the females.

Mute swan

Bright orange beak with
black bump at the top

Long,
curved neck

Cygnets

White body





Mute swans are large water birds with bright, white feathers. Look for them on lakes and rivers.

See if you can spot
a group of mute swans
flying in a v-shape
in the sky.



Mute swans make grunting and whistling calls. When they're angry, they hiss and arch their wings.



.....hissssss



Feathery fact: In the UK, the Queen owns all mute swans living in the wild.

Puffin





The best time to see puffins is in spring and summer, when they come ashore to nest.

Look for them high up on sea cliffs, where they nest in burrows or in cracks between rocks.

Listen out for their growling, grunting noises.



You might also see them diving for fish at sea.

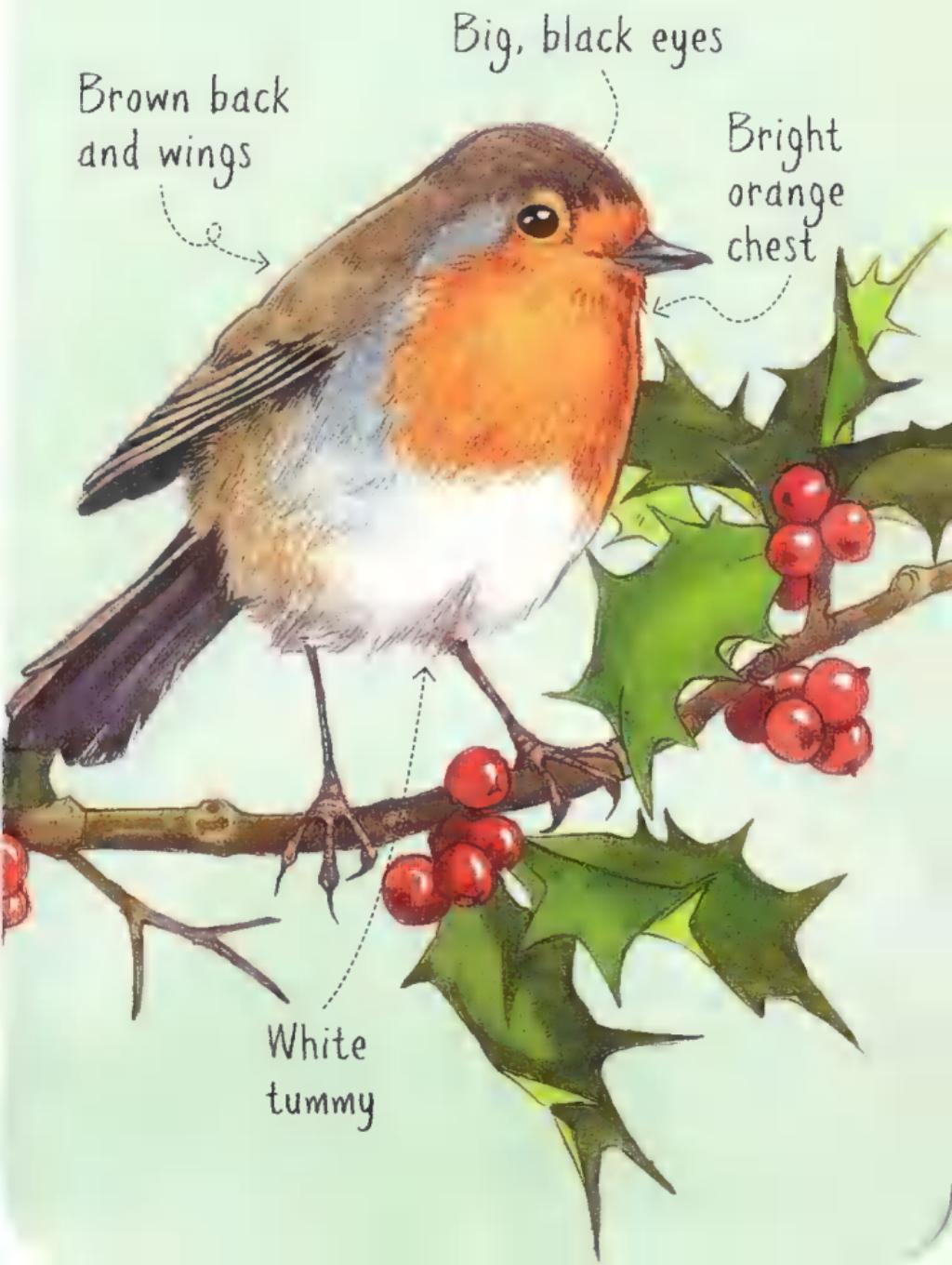


Puffins can carry up to 60 fish in their beaks at once.



Feathery fact: Young puffins are called pufflings.

Robin





Robins have a loud, high, warbling song. You can sometimes hear them calling at night, too.

They make their homes in gardens, woods and fields.

You might see them swooping to the ground, looking for food.

If two robins get too near each other, they are likely to fight.



Feathery fact: Robins often follow gardeners, picking up worms from freshly dug soil.

Song thrush





You can see song thrushes in gardens and woods. Look out for their speckly tummies.

They have a loud, warbling song.

You might see song thrushes running along the ground, then standing still, listening for worms.



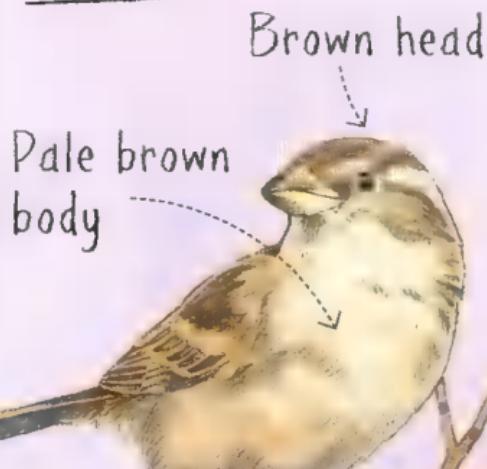
Song thrushes also eat snails. They open the shells by smashing them against a stone.



Feathery fact: A song thrush sounds a bit like a blackbird. You can tell them apart as the song thrush repeats the same few notes again and again.

House sparrow

Female



Brown head

Pale brown body

Male



Grey and brown head

Black throat

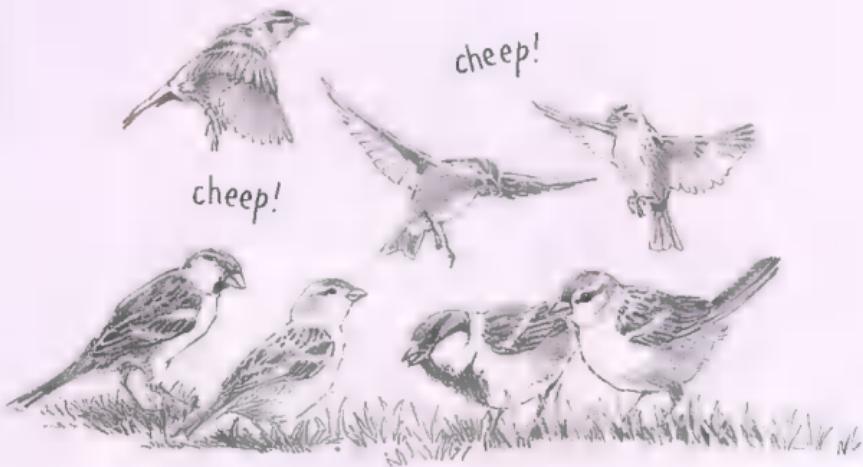
Stripy brown wings and tail

Grey front



House sparrows live wherever there are people. You can see them in towns, and in nearby woods and fields.

They are noisy birds. Listen for their 'cheep cheep' call.



Look for sparrows feeding in flocks. They eat all kinds of things - seeds, insects and food people leave behind.



Feathery fact: Pairs of house sparrows stay together for life.

Starling

Sharp,
yellow beak



Glossy, black and
greenish-purple body



White
flecks
on back

Short, square tail



Starlings live in cities, gardens, woods and farmland. You might see them flying in big flocks at dusk.

They look like swirling clouds of smoke.



Starlings poke their beaks into the ground to find food.



Listen for their noisy, chattering call, with a mixture of squeaks, clicks and whistles.



Feathery fact: Starlings copy the calls of other birds, animals, and even sounds such as phones and car alarms.

Tawny owl

Big, round face surrounded by a dark ring

Big, black eyes

Speckly, light and dark brown body

Short tail

Big feet with sharp claws

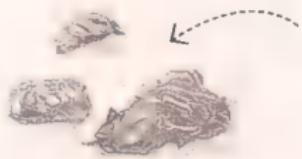


Tawny owls fly around at night, so you are more likely to hear than see them.

Listen for a female owl hooting 'tu-whit'. The male answers 'hoo, tu-whoo' straight afterwards.

hoo, tu-whoo.....

Tawny owls swallow their prey whole.



They bring up the bones and hair of their prey in pellets, like these.

In the daytime, you might spot a tawny owl sitting in a tree, asleep.



Feathery fact: Tawny owls have very good hearing. They can find prey in the dark just by hearing it move.

Woodpigeon



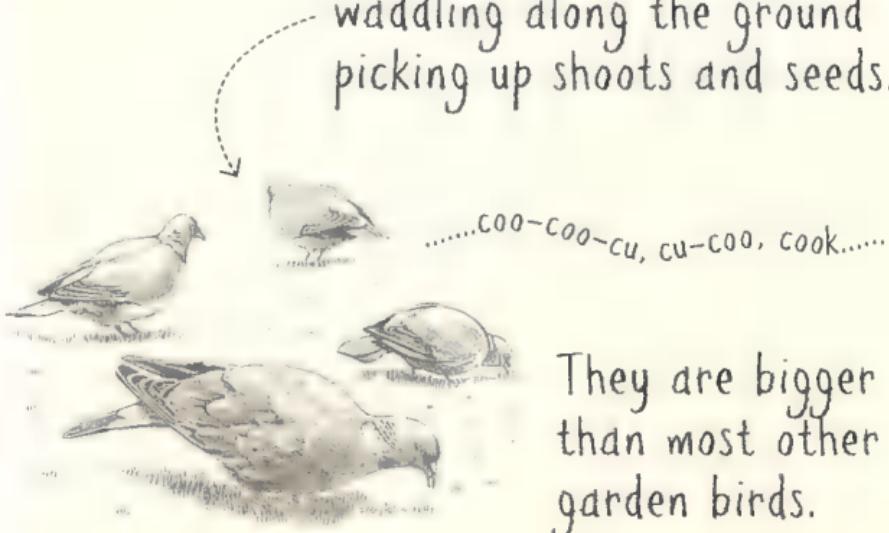


Woodpigeons live in gardens, parks, woods and farmland.

Listen for their cooing call. Their wings also make a loud clapping sound when they take off.



You might see woodpigeons waddling along the ground picking up shoots and seeds.



They are bigger than most other garden birds.



Feathery fact: Woodpigeons bring up a runny paste to feed their young, called 'pigeon milk'.

Wren

Short,
upright tail

Stripy wings

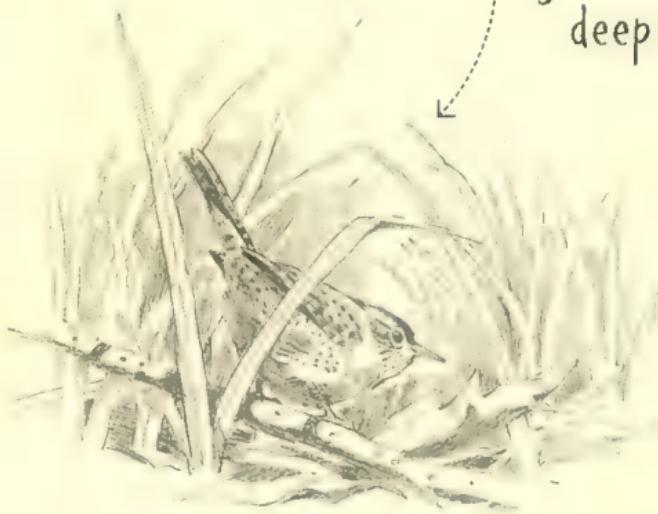
White stripe
over eye

Round, speckly,
brown body



Wrens are some of the smallest garden birds.

You have to look very carefully to see them. They scuttle around deep in bushes.



Listen for their loud, warbling song with fast, low trills.

Wrens live almost anywhere, from gardens, parks and woods, to cliffs and moors.



Feathery fact: On winter nights, wrens huddle together in groups to keep warm.

Swallow





You can see swallows in summer, twisting and turning in the sky as they hunt insects.

They build nests from mud on ledges, or inside old buildings.



They come back to the same nests every year.



Swallows fly to warmer countries in the winter to find food. Before they go, they gather in big flocks.



Feathery fact: Swallows can fly up to 200 miles (320km) a day.

Blackbird





You can see blackbirds in gardens, woods and parks. The females are actually brown.

Male blackbirds have a loud, tuneful song. They often sing at sunrise and sunset.

You usually see blackbirds alone. They bow and run at other birds to scare them away.



You might also see them on the ground, looking for worms and insects to eat.



Feathery fact: Blackbirds can raise up to three families in one year.

Pheasant

Female

Speckly, pale brown body and head

Red eye patch



Blueish-green head

Male

Long, stripy tail

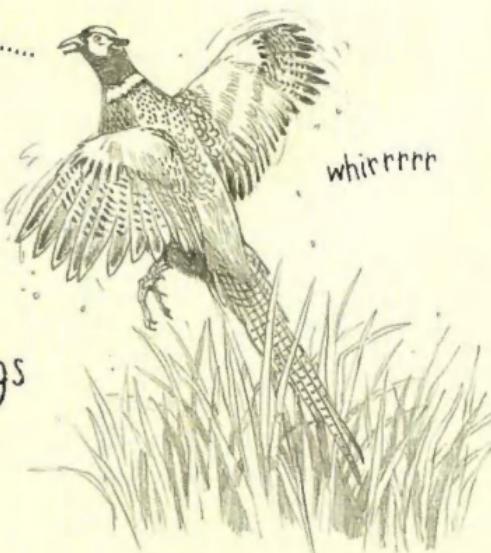
Shiny, brown body



Look out for colourful male pheasants in farmland and woods. Females are pale brown.

kok, kok, kok

When startled,
pheasants rocket
into the air,
whirring their wings
and calling 'kok,
kok, kok'.

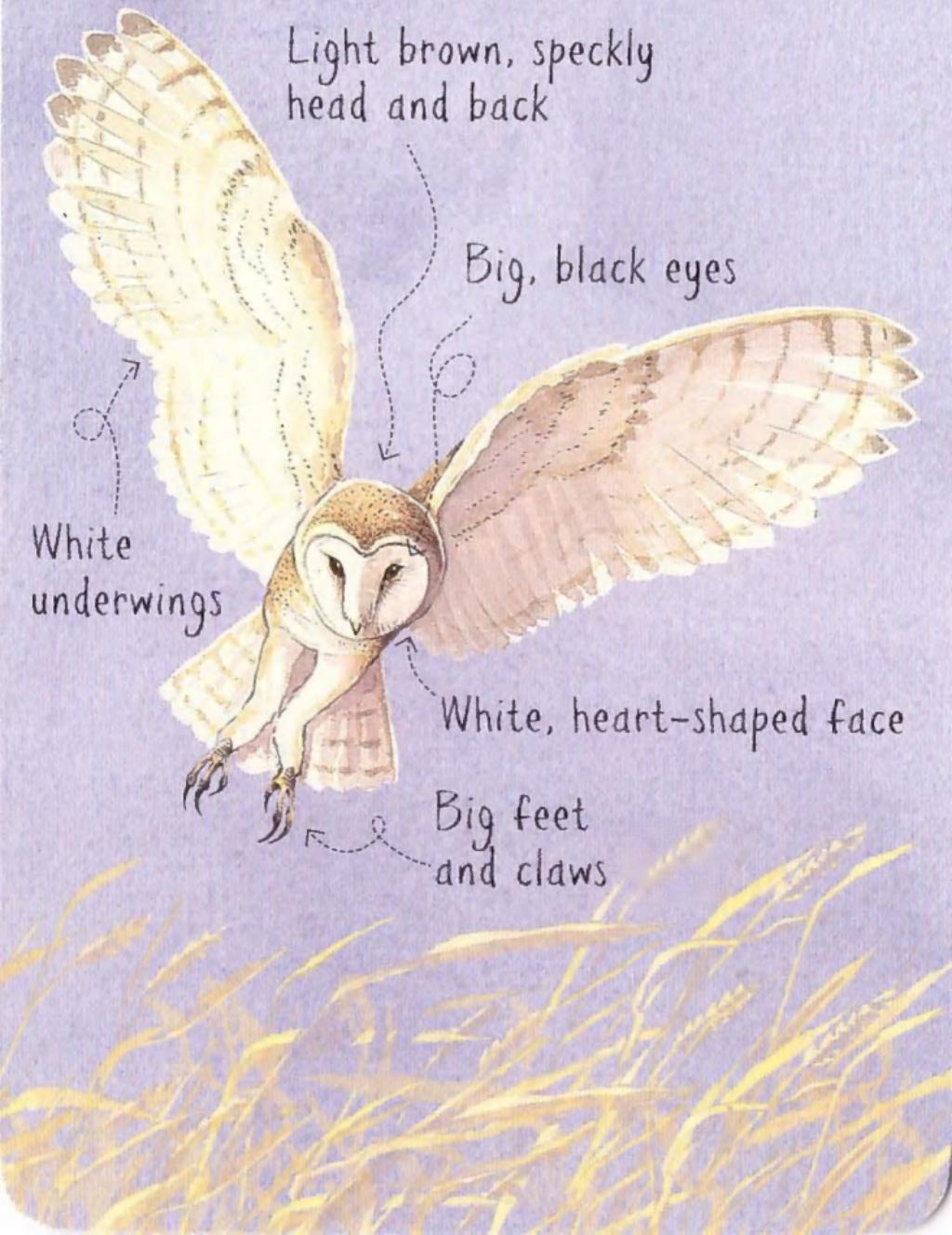


Pheasants run fast and
often run rather than fly.



Feathery fact: Pheasants are called game birds because people hunt them as a sport.

Barn owl



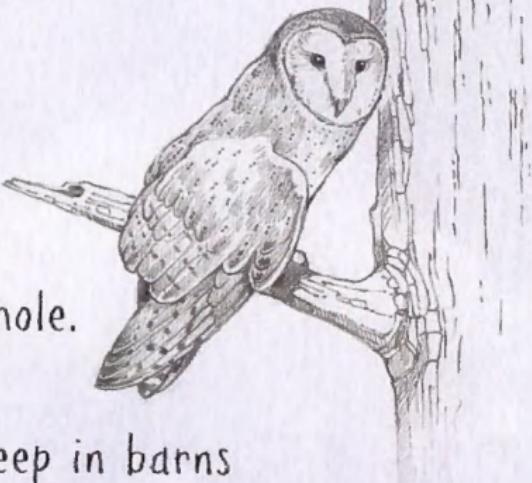


You can see barn owls flying low over fields at night.

Listen for their shrieking call.

When they're hunting, they plunge head-first to the ground.

They swallow their food whole.



Barn owls sleep in barns and hollow trees.



Feathery fact: A barn owl has huge eyes which help it to see prey when it's very dark.